(b) if so, whether the Government is taking steps before hand for the next year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes Sir. Many rural areas in the country including areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, report shortage of potable water in the wake of the drought that affect these States especially during summer months.

(b) and (c) Although water supply is a State subject, Government of India supplement the efforts of the States in ensuring availability of drinking water in all the rural habitations by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In addition to the normal releases, 5% of the funds under the ARWSP have been earmarked for meeting contingencies arising out of natural calamities. The State Government have already been requested to prepare an action plan for providing drinking water in emergency situations as part of their disaster management plan. They have also been encouraged to focus on water conservation measures like ground water recharge, rain water harvesting etc. to improve ground water levels. The State Governments have also been advised to enact legislation for regulating ground water extraction in order to ensure optimum use of available water resources. A program for installation of one lakh hand-pumps, revival of one lakh traditional sources and coverage of one lakh primary schools has also been initiated as per the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15-08-2002, at a total cost of Rs. 800 crore to be implemented during 2002-03 and 2003-04, targeting rural areas affected with water scarcity.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Production of good quality coal

†793. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the production of good quality coal i.e. A and B grade is less as compared to its demand in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the quantity of coal of above mentioned grades produced in the country during the year 1990-91 and 2000-01; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to increase the production of aforesaid coal grades from 1998 till date and the grade-wise quantity of coal reserve available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Production of good quality non-coking coal (grade A and B), on the whole, is less than the demand.

(b) Production of raw coal of grade A and B during the year 1990-91 and 2000-01 are as under:-

(In million tonnes)

Grade	1990-1991	2000-2001
Grade-A	2.960	3.548
Grade-B	20.940	20.694

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the production of good quality coal :-

(i) Mechanisation of underground mines with Side Discharge Loader (SDL)/Load Haul Dumpers(LHD), powered support longwall and continuous miners.

(ii) Opening of new mines and new coal seams in continuing mines.

The grade-wise quantity of coal reserves of the country as on 1-1-2003, as assessed by Geological Survey of India is as under :-

(Figures in million tonnes)

Type	Category of Reserves			Total
	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	
Prime-Coking	4614.35	698.71	—	5313.06
Medium-Coking	11324.80	11839.39	1888.94	25053.13
Semi-Coking	482.16	906.64	221.68	1610.48
Non-Coking	73232.16	99061.94	35570.76	207864.86
Tertiary Coal	431.79	106.39	368.77	906.95
TOTAL	90085.26	112613.07	38050.15	240748.48